Exemption from Jute Packaging Order in Gujarat

2290. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HDPE/PP bags are more suitable for packing of cement than Jute bags;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Gujarat Government has sent a proposal to exempt the cement, fertilizer, and other industries from the Jute Packaging Order; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There have been divergent views of cement industry and jute sector regarding comparative stability of HDPE/PP bags and jute bags for cement. While cement industry have claimed that HDPE/PP bags are most suitable because these are technically superior, cheaper than jute bags and enjoy large scale consumer preference, on the countary jute sector claims that proper variety of jute bags are eqully good for packing cement. IIT Kharagpur has been engaged by Govt. for conducting a study regarding advantages of packaging in jute bags vis-a-vis HDPE/PP bags.

(b) Gujarat Government had sent proposals in the past to the Central Govt. to exempt cement, fertilizer, and other industries from purview of the reservation in jute packaging.

(c) The Standing Advisory Committee constituted under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in packing Commodities) Act, 1987 has been analysing the entire issue in its meetings from time to time, keeping in view representations both in favour and against the reservation order and submits its recommendations to the Government. On the basis of its recommendations Govt. have notified orders exempting cement from mandatory reservation and requiring only 20% of the total production of fertilizer (Urea) to be compulsorily packed in jute packaging material.

Phasing out MEP for Coir Products

2291. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Coir Board has discussed the decision to phase out MEP for coir products with workers and other organisations working in this field; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The impact of the recommendations of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) which inter-alia includes

removal of Minimum Export Price (MEP) were discussed extensively by coir Board with the representatives of exporters, workers and small scale producers of coir products. Some of them are opposing removal of MEP while some are in favour of removal of MEP.

Assam Proposals for Textile Sector

2292. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The details of proposals received from Assam concerning Handloom Development Centre, market development, thrift fund, health package, and quality dying unit scheme, for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, indicating sanctioned amount utilised and achievement made so far; and

(b) The details of proposal received from Assam for Craft Development Centre, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Market Development Support, Design and Technical Development and Trading Scheme, amount already sanctioned against each of the proposals, indicating location-wise/achievement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Scheme-wise details of funds released during 9th Plan to State Government of Assam indicating utilisation certificate are given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Released during 9th Plan from 1997-98 to 1999- 2000 (till date)	Remarks
1.	Handloom Dev. Centre and Quality Dying Unit	—	No proposal received.
2.	Market Development	114.80	—
3.	Thrift Fund	—	No proposal received.
4.	Health Package	54.40	UC received for Rs. 32.00 lakhs.

(b) Scheme-wise details of funds sanctioned to the State Government of Assam during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date) indicating locations are given as under:—

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Sanctioned in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date)	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Craft Dev. Centre	10.06	Simlitola and Dubari
2.	Workshed-cum-Housing	12.85	Nalbari and Goalpara
3.	Marketing Support	47.32	Borjhar and Guwahati